

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): An endogenously expressed ~~naturally occurring~~ polypeptide isolated from a microorganism of the ~~genus *Aspergillus*~~ species *Aspergillus fumigatus*,

wherein said polypeptide has an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to thereby release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in a disaccharide unit,

wherein said disaccharide glycoside has a glucose moiety at the aglycon side,

wherein said polypeptide has enzymatic activity at pH 2.5 to 3,

wherein said polypeptide is stable at 50°C or less,

wherein said polypeptide has a molecular weight of 47 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE, and

wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 7 under highly stringent conditions (5X SSC, 1% blocking agent, 0.1% N-lauroylsarcosine sodium, 0.02% SDS, and 68°C, overnight).

2. (previously presented): The polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein said disaccharide glycoside is selected from the group consisting of β -primeveroside, a rutinose glycoside, a gentiobiose glycoside, an arabinofuranosyl glycoside and an apiofuranosyl glycoside.

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented): A polypeptide isolated from a microorganism which comprises a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 8 shown in the Sequence Listing.

5-10. (canceled).

11. (currently amended): A method for obtaining an endogenously expressed ~~naturally occurring isolated~~ polypeptide having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in a disaccharide unit, wherein said disaccharide glycoside has a glucose moiety at the aglycon side,

said method comprising (1) culturing a microorganism of the ~~genus *Aspergillus*~~ species *Aspergillus fumigatus* in a nutrient medium to effect production of the polypeptide, wherein said culturing is performed under aerobic conditions with a pH in a range of 5-6, at 30°C, and wherein said nutrient medium contains a saccharide inducer, and (2) collecting said polypeptide from the resulting culture mixture to obtain the naturally occurring isolated polypeptide,

wherein said polypeptide has enzymatic activity at pH 2.5 to 3, wherein said polypeptide is stable at 50°C or less, wherein said polypeptide has a molecular weight of 47 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE , and

wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 7 under highly stringent conditions (5X SSC, 1% blocking agent, 0.1% N-lauroylsarcosine sodium, 0.02% SDS, and 68°C, overnight).

12. (canceled).

13. (previously presented): The method for producing a polypeptide having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in a disaccharide unit according to claim 11, wherein the polypeptide is inducible by addition of a saccharide to the nutrient medium.

14. (previously presented): The method for producing a polypeptide according to claim 13, wherein the saccharide is selected from the group consisting of gentose, gentiobiose, and gentio-oligosaccharide.

15-21. (canceled).

22. (original): An isolated polypeptide represented by amino acids 1-466 of SEQ ID NO:8.

23. (canceled).

24. (currently amended): An endogenously expressed ~~naturally occurring~~ polypeptide isolated from a microorganism ~~selected from the group consisting of the species~~ *Aspergillus oryzae, Aspergillus niger, Aspergillus aculeatus, and Aspergillus fumigatus,* wherein said polypeptide has an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to thereby release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in a disaccharide unit, wherein said disaccharide glycoside has a glucose moiety at the aglycon side, wherein said polypeptide has enzymatic activity at pH 2.5 to 3, wherein said polypeptide is stable at 50°C or less, wherein said polypeptide has a molecular weight of 47 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE, and wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 7 under highly stringent conditions (5X SSC, 1% blocking agent, 0.1% N-lauroylsarcosine sodium, 0.02% SDS, and 68°C, overnight).

25. (canceled).

26. (currently amended): A method for obtaining an endogenously expressed ~~naturally occurring~~ isolated polypeptide having an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in a disaccharide unit, wherein said disaccharide glycoside has a glucose moiety at the aglycon side,

said method comprising (1) culturing a microorganism ~~selected from the group consisting~~ of the species ~~*Aspergillus oryzae*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus aculeatus*, and *Aspergillus fumigatus*~~ in a nutrient medium to effect production of the polypeptide,

wherein said culturing is performed under aerobic conditions with a pH in a range of 5-6, at 30°C, and wherein said nutrient medium contains a saccharide inducer, and (2) collecting said polypeptide from the resulting culture mixture to obtain the endogenously expressed ~~naturally occurring~~ isolated polypeptide,

wherein said polypeptide has enzymatic activity at pH 2.5 to 3, wherein said polypeptide is stable at 50°C or less, wherein said polypeptide has a molecular weight of 47 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE , and

wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 7 under highly stringent conditions (5X SSC, 1% blocking agent, 0.1% N-lauroylsarcosine sodium, 0.02% SDS, and 68°C, overnight).

27. (currently amended): An endogenously expressed ~~naturally occurring~~ polypeptide isolated from a microorganism of the ~~genus *Aspergillus*~~ species *Aspergillus fumigatus*, obtained by (1) culturing a microorganism of the species *Aspergillus fumigatus* ~~genus *Aspergillus*~~ in a nutrient medium to effect production of the polypeptide, wherein said culturing is performed under aerobic conditions with a pH in a range of 5-6, at 30°C, and wherein said nutrient medium contains a saccharide inducer, and (2) collecting said polypeptide from the resulting culture mixture to obtain the endogenously expressed ~~naturally occurring~~ isolated polypeptide,

wherein said polypeptide has an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to thereby release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in a disaccharide unit,

wherein said disaccharide glycoside has a glucose moiety at the aglycon side,

wherein said polypeptide has enzymatic activity at pH 2.5 to 3,

wherein said polypeptide is stable at 50°C or less,

wherein said polypeptide has a molecular weight of 47 kDa as determined by SDS-PAGE, and

wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to the complement of SEQ ID NO: 7 under highly stringent conditions (5X SSC, 1% blocking agent, 0.1% N-lauroylsarcosine sodium, 0.02% SDS, and 68°C, overnight).

28. (currently amended): An endogenously expressed ~~naturally occurring~~ polypeptide isolated from a microorganism ~~selected from the group consisting of the species *Aspergillus oryzae*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus aculeatus* and *Aspergillus fumigatus*~~, obtained by (1) culturing a microorganism ~~selected from the group consisting of the species *Aspergillus oryzae*, *Aspergillus niger*, *Aspergillus aculeatus* and *Aspergillus fumigatus*~~ in a nutrient medium to effect production of the polypeptide, wherein said culturing is performed under aerobic conditions with a pH in a range of 5-6, at 30°C, and wherein said nutrient medium contains a saccharide inducer, and (2) collecting said polypeptide from the resulting culture mixture to obtain the endogenously expressed ~~naturally occurring~~ isolated polypeptide,

wherein said polypeptide has an activity to act upon a disaccharide glycoside to thereby release saccharides from said disaccharide glycoside in a disaccharide unit,

wherein said disaccharide glycoside has a glucose moiety at the aglycon side,
wherein said polypeptide has enzymatic activity at pH 2.5 to 3,
wherein said polypeptide is stable at 50°C or less,
wherein said polypeptide has a molecular weight of 47 kDa as determined by SDS-
PAGE, and
wherein said polypeptide is encoded by a nucleic acid sequence that hybridizes to the
complement of SEQ ID NO: 7 under highly stringent conditions (5X SSC, 1% blocking agent,
0.1% N-lauroylsarcosine sodium, 0.02% SDS, and 68°C, overnight).

29-30. (canceled).